

I have received the amount of 6,027\$ which represents the total of all pay and allowances due me upon the termination of my employment.

HA VAN CAU (F)  
(Signature of Employee)

#### CAUTION REGARDING TOBACCO LEGISLATION IS URGED

(Mr. HEFNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, there is legislation in both bodies of this Congress that would place an excise tax which I think is very punitive and does not serve the purpose that I believe that we should be doing.

I do not believe that anyone wants to support children smoking. Certainly from the time I was a small child, my father always talked to me about how not to smoke; that it was not good for my health. I do not think there is any argument about that.

But we have farmers all over this country that depend upon tobacco for their livelihood, and they have made investments, they have borrowed money against the allotments on their farms. So any legislation that passes this House should take into consideration the hardships that it could put on the hundreds of thousands of farmers all over this country that depend on tobacco for their livelihood.

I would urge every Member of this House to be very cautious before we enter into any legislation that affects the tobacco farmer.

#### PUNITIVE PROPOSALS REGARDING TOBACCO LEGISLATION IS AF- FRONT TO FAIRNESS

(Mr. ETHERIDGE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I plead for sanity in this tobacco debate. The punitive proposals before Congress are an affront to fairness.

These proposed tax increases will devastate farmers who have done absolutely nothing wrong. Excise tax increases are regressive and fall hardest on the people who can least afford to pay. These tax increases could be as much as \$900. They would wipe out the child tax credit that was passed last year and take two-thirds of the tax relief we have put in place for HOPE scholarships, and it is one of the largest tax increases ever. I was not elected to raise taxes on the 50 million people in America.

If we can protect farmers, and we certainly ought to stop children from smoking and provide the opportunity for that, and have a balanced agreement that reduces the litigation, protects farmers, and curbs teen smoking, I can support a responsible increase in prices. However, responsibility and balance has been abandoned. Tobacco liti-

gation is no longer about responsibly reducing teen smoking, it is about punishment, and we must return to sanity and a fair debate on this bill and stop this shameful political posturing.

#### HEFTY AND REGRESSIVE TAX BILL BEING PUSHED

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, if any legislative body in the world should stand up for families, it is the United States Congress.

Suddenly, in a mad rush to pursue political agendas, this body has nearly forgotten a certain group of families who, since the very beginning days of this Nation, have known for generations tobacco production as a way of life; a way of life that pays their bills, that helps build their communities' schools and hospitals and roads, and provides a way for thousands of hard working farmers throughout the Southeast to support their families.

Just a short while ago those farmers left their fields, after a full day of tending their crops, and right now, at this moment, they are wondering if they have any future.

Suddenly a hefty and regressive tax is being pushed that will hit hardest those in low- and middle-income brackets. Will families be first or last in this tax-and-spend agenda that will destroy the livelihood of honest working people?

May God help this body if it turns its back on the farmers, their families and their communities.

#### THE CLINTON NOMINEE FOR AMBASSADOR TO LUXEMBOURG

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, James Hormel, President Clinton's nominee for the ambassadorship of Luxembourg, is a businessman, a diplomat, a former dean of the University of Chicago law school, a one-time delegate to the United Nations' Human Rights Commission and a philanthropist.

He has wide bipartisan support from Senators JOSEPH BIDEN to ORRIN HATCH, as well as Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and even Alice Turner, Hormel's ex-wife. The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has also approved his nomination. But he has not been able to get through the other body in terms of confirmation. And the reason is, Mr. Speaker, Hormel is gay.

I say it is time now to treat Americans as Americans, to end the vicious discrimination against gays and lesbians in this Nation. That is why we must pass the Employment Non-discrimination Act to eliminate dis-

crimination against gays and lesbians in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, no one is asking for any more benefits than any other citizen of the United States. We all are created equal. This is a shame and a travesty that this qualified gentleman cannot be approved and affirmed to be the ambassador of Luxembourg. We need to end discrimination now against gays and lesbians.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each until midnight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

#### VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Arkansas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN MICHAEL X. HARRINGTON

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement official who the public could always count on. Port Authority Police Captain Michael X. Harrington holds a record that would make even Cal Ripken envious. While the Baltimore Orioles shortstop was honored for playing 16 years without calling in sick, he has a long way to go to match Captain Harrington.

On May 15, Captain Michael Harrington retired from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey after 43 years of service without ever missing a day of work.

When Captain Harrington began walking a beat for the Port Authority, Cal Ripken was not even born, the Dodgers were in Brooklyn, and there were just 48 States.

During his career, Captain Harrington outlasted eight U.S. Presidents, the Soviet Union, the Cold War and numerous fads, from coonskin caps to mood rings.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Captain Harrington never missed a day's work is even more remarkable when we consider some of the obstacles he had to overcome. He found his way to work through blizzards, floods, hurricanes, blackouts and even riots. He did not let colds, or fevers above 102, injuries he sustained on the job, or even a broken wrist prevent him from doing his duty.